

**Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (SEORAC/RAC) Meeting  
Final Minutes September 22, 2003  
Kahneeta, Warm Springs, OR**

*Notetaker: Peggy Diegan*

<b>RAC Members Present:</b>	<b>Group Number:</b>	<b>Federal Officials Present:</b>
Mark Ferns	1	<b>Dave Henderson, DFO BLM</b>
Dennis Hitt	1**	<b>Tom Dyer Burns BLM</b>
Dick Leever	1	<b>Steve Ellis Lakeview BLM</b>
Tom Harris	1	<b>Margaret Bailey, Acting Malheur NF</b>
John Bishop	2	<b>Karen Shimamoto-Freemont/Winema NF</b>
Bob Kinchey	2	
Jill Workman	2	
Chad Boyd	3	
Marylyn Miller	3*	
Chuck Graham	3**	
Cecil Dick	3	
Jane O'Keeffe	3	
<i>* retiring member **new member</i>		
<b>Absent RAC Members:</b>		<b>Federal Officials:</b>
James Campbell	1*	
Ken Bentz	1*	
Mike Golden	2*	
Lee Belknap	2	
Walt Van Dyke	3	
<b>Guests:</b>		
<i>Karla Bird, Burns BLM</i>		
<i>Carolyn Freeborn, BLM</i>		
<i>Hugh Barrett, OR/WA SO</i>		

## **MEETING FACILITATOR**

**Debbie Lyons**

- Greeted group and discussed meeting logistics.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

**Dave Henderson, Designated Federal Official**

- Welcome to all new members and current members.
- Because the nominations have not cleared Washington DC and it is not possible to have a quorum, therefore, there will be no final decisions resulting from this meeting, only input for the RAC to consider.
- Discussions today that need a final decision will be decided through a conference call at a later date.
- Two vacancies are still outstanding and the deadline has been extended.

**Jill Workman**

- Self introductions each person.

## **RAC INFORMATION BOOK**

**Peggy Diegan**

- Provided information on the RAC Information book that will be sent out to each RAC member in the next few weeks.

## **2004 ANNUAL WORK PLAN (AWP)**

**Debbie Lyons**

### **Continuing Subcommittees**

- North Lake Recreation Plan
- Vale District Wildland Fire Forum
- Rangeland Health Assessment BLM (only on “as needed” basis) progress reports periodically.
- Sagegrouse

### **Proposed Program of Work for 2004**

- Forest Plan
- Noxious Weeds
- Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)
- Healthy Forest Initiative
- Possible charter changes (i.e. boundary , others)

### **Overarching issues**

- Wild Horse and Burro

### **Presentation**

- Economic sustainability of local communities
- Ron Price/Margaret Wolfe State Office-OHV presentation
- RS2477 “Whole picture presentation”
- Recordable Disclaimers presentation
  - Set up a forum on these

### **Field tours**

- Diatomaceous Mine in Burns
- Wild Horse Corral
- Horse Management Area (HMA)
- New OHV areas-see successful examples

### **Agenda-next meeting**

- Include the Klamath plan
- Consider charter change to cover the entire Lakeview BLM District.
- Subgroups can be a mix of public and RAC members.
- Subcommittee would be just RAC members.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS/REPORTS:**

North Lake Recreation Plan	Jane O’Keeffe, Marilyn Miller, Dick Leever, Lee Belknap, and Tom Harris
Birch Creek Management Plan	Marilyn Miller, Jill Workman, John Bishop, Mike Golden and Jim Campbell
Vale District Wildland Fire Management Forum	Walt Van Dyke, Bob Kindschy, John Bishop and Mark Ferns
Rangeland Health Assessment BLM All	Walt Van Dyke, Jill Workman, Chad Boyd and Ken Bentz

## **BIRCH CREEK MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **Jill Workman**

- Jill Workman, Mike Golden, John Bishop and Jim Campbell worked on this report.
  - Committee spent one night at Birch Creek Ranch.
- See handout
- Public meeting was held in Jordan valley following the Summer Lake RAC meeting.
  - Jordan valley meeting had 30 folks attending this meeting.
- Tom Christensen, Vale BLM was a great assistance in creating this report.
- Report suggestions:
  - Orientation would need to be done prior to any use of facility.
    - There are some rattlesnakes in this area that would need to be addressed in orientation.
  - Because cooking facilities are only in the main building, everything should be rented as one unit.
  - Minimum stay of 3 days.
  - Tent camping should not be allowed in the ranch building area because there is already a tent camping area.
  - BLM could block out time for official use.
    - Area is not a personal vacation spot for BLM employees.
  - Waterwheel needs to be kept functional.
  - Road can have problems during rainy season.
  - Agricultural fields use would remain the same.
  - The Archeological site would also remain the same.

**Approval of this Birch Creek Plan needs to be done either at a conference call or the next scheduled meeting.**

## **NORTH LAKE RECREATION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE**

### **Dick Leever**

- Some folks from Washington expected to come out looking at budget concerns.
  - Duncan Reservoir has been put off until the North Lake Recreation Management Plan is signed.
- Committee will be meeting again on how to deal with the Wilderness Scenic Area (WSA) located inside the dunes area.
- Four wheel drive group will be at Duncan Reservoir on October 4 reviewing issues.
  - Need to set up a date with Gretchen Burris, BLM Lakeview District to discuss issues.

### **Tom Harris**

- Open designation does not fit in this area.
  - RMP shows a more reasonable level.
  - Recognize that the sand dunes are important.

- Wilderness study designation hampers attaining necessary funding to provide protection for the dunes.
- WSA sand dunes extremely difficult to manage.
  - Designation already keeps folks out of some areas so they can recover.

**Marilyn Miller**

- Thinks that there is a need for designated camping areas.
- There should be days set aside that there be no OHV use so the wildlife have quiet times.

**VALE DISTRICT WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT FORUM**

**Dave Henderson**

- Lack of wildfire season has kept the committee struggling on how to deal with this subject.
  - General public has not shown an interest.
- To get good public input the committee needs to seek support during a big fire season.
- Committee needs to look at a where to go next.

**RANGELAND HEALTH ASSESSMENT BLM SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Chad Boyd**

- Committee sent letter to the BLM State Director.
  - Committee is in a holding pattern until response is received on this letter.
- Brief or progress report needs to be included in the Federal Officials updates to let the committee know of problem areas.

**Dave Henderson**

- Emerging issues in the Boise area from upland bird groups.
- The spring range conditions may also be a future issue.

**Jill Workman**

- Forests-there may be a grazing issue here that the subcommittee may need to be involved in.

**Steve Ellis**

- Merging issue is the Beaty Butte Grazing Allotment located in the Southeast corner of the Lakeview District and is 506,000 acres in size.
  - 500 horses in the allotment, AOL is 160.
  - Utilization issue is in certain parts of the allotment.
  - OR BLM State Director received a letter with photos and there are three congressional out of this.
  - History of this allotment is an evaluation was done in 1994 with the recommendation that an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) be written.
    - Decision 4,000 head of cattle instead of 10,000 head of cattle.
      - This year 2,900 head in the allotment.
      - Use to be one big pasture and cattle were moved around.
        - There is now Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) in this area.
      - Decision was appealed and a stay was requested.
        - BLM was allowed to implement the plan anyway.

- Objectives of the plan were to include some prescribed burning in 1999.
  - 3,000 acres were burned to reduce sagebrush and increase the diversity in the burn areas.
  - In 2000 lightening fires burned another 35,000 acres with 15,000 being public land and the rest private.
  - BLM reseeded area.
  - After two years of rest, a 2002 Interdisciplinary (ID) team toured the area.
    - Team found 14 springs of which 10 were on private land.
    - Because grazing cattle go where the water is 2,900 head of cattle congregated and caused heavy use to the spring areas.
    - Cattle went through fences in the East/West Gulch and trampled the spring banks.
    - Upland areas are in good condition and include a spring that was rested this year.
      - Want to get other areas to look like this one.
    - ID team looked at area and felt that an adjustment needed to be done in the overgrazed areas.
    - ID team to determine this fall what needs to be done in the East/West area.
- Timeframe is to come up with a plan before the next grazing season.
- This area will be rested next season.
- So timeframe is another growing season.
- Horses go where they want and this area was not rested from them just from the cows.
- Suggestion to have the Rangeland Health Assessment Subcommittee work with Tom Rasmussen's ID team on the plan.

**Recommendation for a potential decision at the next meeting or conference call:**  
**Recommend Chad Boyd represent the SEOR-RAC and participate with Tom Rasmussen's ID team in coming up with solutions to the Beauty Butte Grazing Allotment issues. Steve Ellis will also report on this at the next meeting.**

#### **Karla Bird and Carolyn Freeborn**

- Draft Andrews/Steens RMP has been mailed out last week and there is a thirty minute power point presentation that updates the status of the plan.
  - Document is ready for review plus there will be public meetings with a comment period ending in December.
  - Comments will be reviewed with the RAC's and Steens Mountain Advisory Committee (SMAC) early winter
  - Comments can be made on the website.
  - Possible to make comments by email.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

### **Karen Shimamoto**

- Working on timber sales and salvage sales and a number of restorations
- Winter Fire has 17 million board feet and hopes to offer a sale on 10 million board feet.
- EIS is being done for the Toolbox Fire that covers a range of zero to 75 million board feet.
  - May end up with 5-7 different timber sales.

### **Mark Ferns**

- The state legislature passed bill on a bonding tool for small miners.
  - Currently negotiating with BLM and FS.
  - The concept is that small miners have insufficient resources to do their own bonds.
  - Most mining operations do not move enough material to generate a bond pool to better guide in mining reclamation and previously disturbed land.

### **Margaret Bailey**

- Expect the Monument draft EIS to close today and then will be working on responses later on this week.
- Watershed restoration project Record of Decision was signed August 13.

### **Dick Leever**

- RS2477 will be addressed tomorrow.

### **Tom Dyer**

- November 16 reporting date for new job in Washington, D.C.
  - Sandy Berain will be the acting District Manager in Burns.
- Last week in process of doing a gather and the helicopter pilot lost control and crashed stopping the gather.
  - A lot of kudos to the community and the Burns staff for assisting the rescue of the pilot who was sent on a Lifeflight to Bend.
- Another pilot will be brought in to do the rest of the gathers that are scheduled.

### **Steve Ellis**

- Working on responses to protest on the Lakeview RMP.
- Hired a new area manager for Klamath Falls Resource Area-John Rabe.
- Upper Klamath River Plan review has closed and 200 comments were received.
- Comment period, including Lakeview Districts, ended last week on the hydro re-licensing.
  - Some of the areas facilities are on BLM land.
- Lakeview District is working towards co-locating with Forest Service and Klamath Falls Resource Area.
- Water storage issues need to be updated with Bureau of Reclamation.

**Tom Harris**

- Excited to have someone talk about RS2477.
- We need to do more wild horse gathers.
- The OHV recreation issues out of the scope of this committee area are still a concern.

**Cecil Dick**

- Water is important.
  - What is the BLM or FS interest in the Hells Canyon relicensing project?

**Chad Boyd**

- Interested in the state horse issue.

**Bob Kindschy**

- Sage grouse should not be hyphenated, it is two words.
- Has mixed feelings on crested wheatgrass.
  - In Southeast Oregon many crested wheat grass seedings are weakened and sagebrush is encroaching. This is largely due to drought and perhaps a lack of adjustments in stocking rate for the drought.
    - Concerned if agencies are ready to accept the diversity.

**John Bishop**

- Interested in roads and wild horse issues.

**Dennis Hitt**

- First meeting and just listening this time.

**Chuck Graham**

- Looking forward to participating in the RAC.

**Dave Henderson**

- Vale District Associate District Manager Sandy Guches is moving on to the state office in Montana.
  - Vale District will be recruiting for this job.
- Funded for the implementation of the Southeast Oregon RMP for next year.
- Hundreds of pages of comments have been received on the relicensing of Hells Canyon Dam and it is taking a lot of time to review.
  - In the final license application stage.
  - Fascinating process and it is far from being completed.
  - Many comments and concerns have been expressed.
  - 95% of the dam area is in the John Day/Snake RAC area.
  - It will be interesting on how Idaho power will react to BLM comments.

**Jill Workman**

- RAC is having a lot of changes and many folks are leaving and she has appreciated working with Dave Henderson, Peggy Diegan, and Debbie Lyons for the last two years.
  - Excited to be working with Lakeview District for the next two years.

- Went to a SMAC meeting and enjoyed seeing how they work.
- Interested in urban fire interface issues and would like to deal with these during the off season instead of during the fire season.
  - Get the RAC involved with this.

**Dick Leever**

- Like to see a couple of OHV areas added and see what has been done in the state with OHV issues.